

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled)

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Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~The digital camera according to claim 13;~~ A digital camera comprising:

an image sensor for converting a subject image into an electric signal on a plurality of pixels to obtain a captured image, said image sensor being capable of randomly selecting one or more pixels to be read-out from said plurality of pixels;

a control circuit for reading-out said electric signal from said image sensor in accordance with a pixel pattern, said pixel pattern being different among first and second operations of said digital camera; and wherein:

said first operation is a recording operation to record said captured image in a recording medium in accordance with a first pixel pattern;

said second operation is an autofocus operation to obtain focus in accordance with a second pixel pattern in said captured image; and

said second pixel pattern has a predetermined area having a higher density of pixels-to-be-read than the other areas of said second pattern.

Claim 19 (Original): The digital camera according to claim 18, wherein

said predetermined area of said second pixel pattern is variable according to a position of said subject image in focus.

Claims 20-23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~The method according to claim 23~~ A method of controlling a digital camera comprising an image sensor capable of randomly selecting pixels-to-be-read, comprising the steps of:

(a) designating one operation out of a plurality of operations to thereby determine a designated operation;

(b) selecting one of a plurality of pixel patterns in accordance with said designated operation to determine a selected pixel pattern, and reading-out pixel signals from said image sensor in accordance with said selected pixel pattern;

(c) executing said designated operation using pixel signals which are read-out from said image sensor in accordance with said selected pixel pattern, wherein

said designated operation is an autofocusing operation to obtain focus on the basis of an image captured by said image sensor; and

said step (b) includes the step of:

(b-4) selecting a pixel pattern adapted to calculation of a focusing position, wherein said pixel pattern has a predetermined area having a higher density of pixels-to-be-read than the other areas.

Claim 25(Currently Amended): The method according to claim 24, wherein

~~said pixel pattern has a predetermined area having a higher density of pixels-to-be-read than the other areas, and~~

said predetermined area corresponds to a position of a subject image in focus.

Claims 26-29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (New): A digital camera comprising:

an image sensor for converting a subject image into an electric signal, said image sensor being capable of randomly selecting pixels-to-be-read;

a pattern selector for selecting a first pixel pattern in accordance with a recording operation to record a captured image in a recording medium, said pattern selector further selecting a second pixel pattern having a smaller number of pixels-to-be-read than said first pixel pattern in accordance with an autofocus operation on the basis of said captured image, said pattern selector further selecting a third pixel pattern having a smaller number of pixels-to-be-read than said second pixel pattern in accordance with a display operation to display said captured image; and

a control circuit for selecting pixels-to-be read from all pixels of said image sensor in accordance with the selected pixel pattern, to read out the selected pixels.

Claim 31 (New): A method of controlling a digital camera comprising an image sensor capable of randomly selecting pixels-to-be-read, comprising the steps of:

converting a subject image into an electric signal;

selecting a first pixel pattern in accordance with a recording operation to record a captured image in a recording medium;

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selecting a second pixel pattern having a smaller number of pixels-to-be-read than said first pixel pattern in accordance with an autofocus operation on the basis of said captured image;

selecting a third pixel pattern having a smaller number of pixels-to-be read than said second pixel pattern in accordance with a display operation to display said captured image; and

selecting pixels-to-be-read from all pixels of said image sensor in accordance with the selected pixel pattern, to read out the selected pixels.

Claim 32 (New): A digital camera comprising:

an image sensor for converting a subject image into an electric signal, said image sensor being capable of randomly selecting pixels-to-be read;

a pattern selector for selecting a first pixel pattern in accordance with a recording operation to record a captured image in a recording medium, said pattern selector further selecting a second pixel pattern in accordance with an autofocus operation on the basis of said captured image; and

a control circuit for selecting pixels-to-be-read from all pixels of said image sensor in accordance with the selected pixel pattern, to read out the selected pixels,

wherein a part of said second pixel pattern has the same pixel density as said first pixel pattern.

Claim 33 (New): A method of controlling a digital camera comprising an image sensor capable of randomly selecting pixels-to-be-read, comprising the steps of:

converting a subject image into an electric signal;

selecting a first pixel pattern in accordance with a recording operation to record a captured image in a recording medium;

selecting a second pixel pattern in accordance with an autofocus operation on the basis of said captured image; and

selecting pixels-to-be-read from all pixels of said image sensor in accordance with the selected pixel pattern, to read out the selected pixels,

wherein a part of said second pixel pattern has the same pixel density as said first pixel pattern.
